

# WAUKESHA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 11, 2004



## In Attendance:

Paul Barthel; Department of Public Works, Highway Commissioner Representative  
Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki; Medical Representative  
Sergeant Jim Bramm; Menomonee Falls Police Department Representative  
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Vice-Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator  
Mr. Thomas Loeffler; Bureau of Transportation Safety  
Mr. Dick Pfeiffer; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative  
Sergeant Kenneth Pileggi; Village of Mukwonago Police Department  
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Vice-Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:08 p.m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Sergeant Jim Bramm from the Menomonee Falls Police Department made a motion to approve the minutes, and Sergeant Mark Tushaus from the City of Brookfield Police Department seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Lieutenant Larry LaFavor stated that he received notice of a citizen concern in regards to difficulties making any turns from Center Road on to Highway 59 by-passing the city, and over the lack of a traffic signal at the intersection of Center Road and Highway 59. Dick Pfeiffer stated the Town of Waukesha would like stop lights at that intersection, and they will be coming in the future. Lieutenant LaFavor stated he will reply back to the citizen with that information.

Tom Loeffler asked why there is a red arrow all of the time at northbound Moorland at I-43 when turning to go southwest on I-43. Dick Pfeiffer stated he would ask Mitzi Dobersek.

A complaint was received concerning lane painting at the intersection of Hampton and Lilly. Paul Barthel stated he would like to get rid of the white hatched areas. The painting can not be seen until traffic is on top of it and it is invisible during snowfalls. The area is dangerous as traffic turning left stops the through traffic. When the traffic turning left finally clears, other cars are then passing. He stated this area would be on a list of intersections to be improved with roundabouts.

### OLD BUSINESS

Sergeant Mark Tushaus asked Sergeant Jim Bramm if he had found an article from the state on play vehicles. Sergeant Bramm stated he had thought he saw an E-Mail that was an opinion from Madison, and he will re-contact Sergeant Tushaus reference this.

Sergeant Mark Tushaus stated the State of Utah conducted a study concerning vehicle operation where drivers with a BAC of .08 were equivalent to drivers using cell phones. Tom Loeffler stated a Canadian study looked at several thousand crashes and showed drivers using cell phones were similar to those whose driving was impaired.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Tom Loeffler stated that 2003 Assembly Bill #458 was recently passed and states that any type of illegal substance in your system is presumed a level of intoxicants and would be considered the same as that of alcohol. He also mentioned several bills that were pending in legislature including #90, Standard Enforcement Seat Belt; and #724, Child Safety Restraint System.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

❖ Medical

Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki handed out a list of Waukesha County Motor Vehicle Fatalities. In future lists she will include more detail; such as intoxicology, chargeability, and road conditions. She is working with PARC Task Force on alcohol-related crashes. Teenage crashes are down, however, motorcycle crashes are up.

❖ Menomonee Falls Police Department

Sergeant Jim Bramm distributed a handout entitled, "Ticket To Highway Safety? Study Shows Traffic Tickets Could Save Drivers' Lives", which explained that traffic enforcement and tickets do save lives. It stated that new research suggests that traffic citations do have a positive, lifesaving impact on drivers.

❖ Bureau Of Transportation Safety

Tom Loeffler stated that the graduated driver's license is showing a percentage of reduction in crash rates.

Tom Loeffler handed out a study on Red Light Running involving four different intersections in southeast Wisconsin and the number of violations that were occurring in the fall of 2003. This would be a pilot project for five years for southeast Wisconsin. He will send out for comments and see if the committee can move forward with it. The equipment would get a picture of the plate and vehicle, and the company would do all the administration work but not issue the ticket, which would still be locally controlled. Other states have shown an immediate reduction of crashes. Paul Barthel stated the intersections of Highway SR and Watertown, Highway Q and Bancroft, Highway Q and Maple; and Highway P and Highway K (Town of Oconomowoc) in the county already have cameras that might be able to be incorporated into the Red Light Running Program. Paperwork for the agencies is minimal because citations would be done electronically. The Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission then did give consensus to move forward on the Red Light Running Program. This will enable the community to put a system in. Sergeant Mark Tushaus stated it was a good idea.

Tom Loeffler stated there have been 88 fatalities so far this year, as compared to 74 last year, and 63 on a five-year average. Sixty-five percent of the fatalities last year were not wearing their seat belts.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

Lieutenant Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department had one fatal accident:

Date of Accident: 11-20-03:

Location: STH 59, Approximately 25 feet west of Old Village Road

A motorcycle traveling eastbound on STH 59 struck a deer in the road, lost control, and the female passenger, after being ejected from the motorcycle, slid on the pavement in a northeasterly direction. She was taken by Flight For Life to Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. Her husband, the male driver, was not injured. No alcohol or drugs were involved, and they were not wearing helmets. The female passenger died from injuries related to the crash on 11-27-03.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Jim Bramm from the Menomonee Falls Police Department made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Paul Barthel from the Department of Public Works. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

(Minutes taken by Jean Gregesich, Waukesha County Sheriff's Department)